

Message Text

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R 181524Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011448

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UN, UR

SUBJECT: ROLE OF MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE IN POLITICAL
DISCUSSIONS

REF: USUN 0064

1. WE SEE NO UTILITY, AND CONSIDERABLE DISADVANTAGES, TO
INVOLVEMENT OF MSC IN PEACEKEEPING DISCUSSIONS IN UN, FOR
FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. AT THIS STAGE DISCUSSIONS ON PEACEKEEPING GUIDE-
LINES ARE ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL.

B. CHARTER LANGUAGE CIRCUMSCRIBES THE FUNCTIONS OF
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MSC. WE READ ARTICLE 47, PARA 1 AS RELATIVE TO ENFORCEMENT

MEASURES, NOT TO CONSENT-TYPE PEACEKEEPING. IN THIS CONNECTION COMMITTEE OF 33 AND ITS WORKING GROUP ARE CREATURES OF GA AND NOT OF THE COUNCIL AND WE QUESTION PROPRIETY OF SC SUB-ORGAN INJECTING ITSELF IN DELIBERATIONS.

C. MORE IMPORTANT, MSC AS A BODY IS NOT LIKELY TO AGREE ON SUCH MATTERS IF PERMANENT MEMBERS ARE UNABLE TO AGREE ON THEM IN POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS, SO THAT INVOLVEMENT OF MSC WOULD COMPLICATE RATHER THAN SIMPLIFY THEM, BY IN EFFECT CREATING A SECOND TIER OF DISCUSSIONS.

D. THERE IS NOTHING TO PREVENT INDIVIDUAL MSC MEMBERS FROM GIVING TECHNICAL ADVICE TO THEIR NATIONAL DELEGATIONS. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE US IS ONLY MSC MEMBER WHOSE MSC REP HAS ACTED AS ADVISER TO HIS REP TO COMMITTEE OF 33 AND ITS WG.

2. ACCORDINGLY, WE PROPOSE THAT, IF NECESSARY, AT NEXT MSC MEETING WE TAKE POSITION THAT US HAS GIVEN THE SOV PROPOSAL THE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION THAT USMSC REP HAD SAID IT DESERVED AND THAT WE HAD COME TO CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD BE DISSERVICE TO THE MSC TO INVOLVE IT IN PEACEKEEPING DISCUSSIONS, ALTHOUGH INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS WOULD BE ABLE TO DRAW ON EXPERTISE OF THEIR MSC REPRESENTATIVES WHERE APPROPRIATE.

3. WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO ENHANCE THE MISCHIEF-MAKING POTENTIAL OF THIS PLOY BY DISCUSSING IT EXTENSIVELY WOULD BE BEST IF ANY DISCUSSION OF IT COULD BE AS BRIEF AS POSSIBLE. IT APPEARS THAT SOVIET GAMBIT MAY BE INDIRECTLY DESIGNED TO GIVE MSC PEACEKEEPING ROLE WHICH SOVIETS HAVE ALWAYS SOUGHT AND TO WHICH OTHERS, INCLUDING US, HAVE NOT AGREED. SECOND MOTIVE MAY BE TO EMBARRASS CHINESE.

4. OBVIOUSLY IF THE SUBJECT IS NOT RAISED BY OTHERS AT NEXT MEETING IT WOULD NOT BE IN OUR INTEREST FOR US REP TO MENTION IT.

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